

Memorandum

Date: January 7, 1991
Attention: Archeologist
Subject: Archeologist Trip report to Fredericksburg and
Spotsylvania Battlefields Memorial National
Military Park
To: Chief, Division of Park Historic Preservation

From December 03 to 05, I traveled to Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania County Battlefields Memorial National Military Park to monitor installation of new power line at Quarters Two on Lee Drive within the Fredericksburg Battlefield, and to examine the interior of the kitchen at Chatham prior to rehabilitation construction.

Archeological monitoring of the new underground power line adjacent to the quarters did not reveal any significant archeological features. Excavation was effected by use of a ditch-witch machine which cut a trench approximately 0.8 feet wide. observation of the soils revealed that the front, or east facing portion of the house was constructed on a layer of fill, which extended from the surface to the maximum depth of excavation (approximately three feet) Excavation of the trench to the rear of the structure cut through a battlefield earthwork. This was drawn in profile (Figure 1) The original base of excavation for this feature was not observed, suggesting that the trench had not experienced appreciable backfilling. However, because of the apparent migration of the mound soils downhill, its elevation appears to have been considerably reduced. No artifacts were recovered during monitoring. No additional action is required for this project.

At the Chatham kitchen, the structural features revealed by removal of the floor were documented (Figure 2). Unlike most kitchen structures, no artifacts were observed in the interior soil. With the assistance of the Regional Archeologist, a single excavation unit of one by two feet dimension was placed in the northeast room which was excavated to the depth of 2.5 feet below surface. The stratigraphy within the unit consisted of grayish brown sandy loam with bits of charcoal and small brick fragments from the surface to 0.9 feet below surface, brown sandy loam containing no artifacts from 0.9 to 2.2 feet below surface, orangish brown compacted clay from 2.2 to 2.5 feet below surface, and solid quartzite rock below 2.5 feet below surface. Of particular interest is the fact that a single

clam shell was the only cultural artifact not related to construction observed during the excavation of the test.

The test indicates there is little likelihood of intact cultural deposits within the kitchen. No evidence of any but culturally sterile soil was observed. All fill containing cultural materials was probably removed during a renovation of the structure prior to its acquisition by the Park Service. Monitoring of soil removal will mitigate any potential adverse effects to the resources, although no adverse effect is anticipated. Monitoring has been tentatively scheduled for January 22 through 24.

Allen H. Cooper

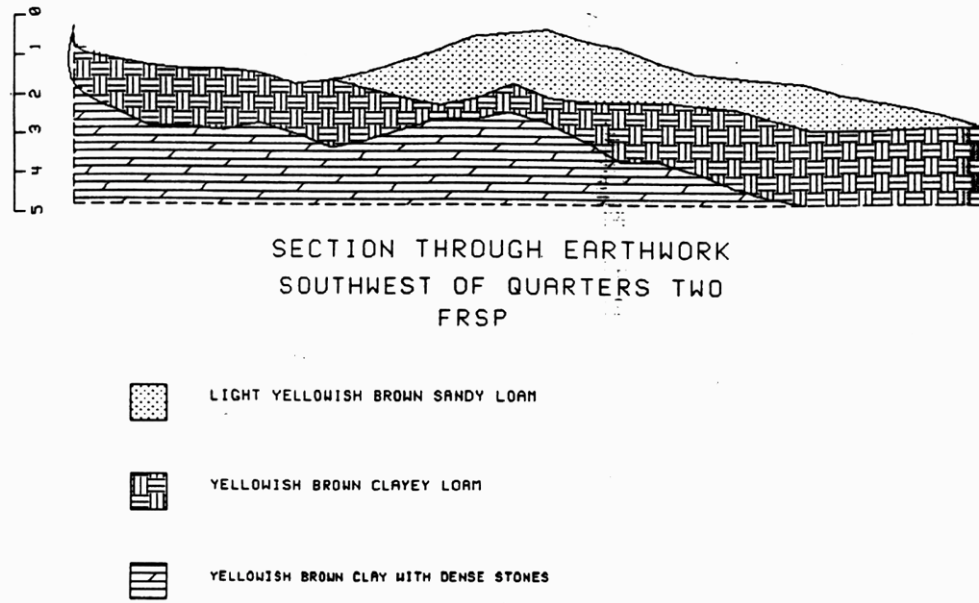


Figure 1

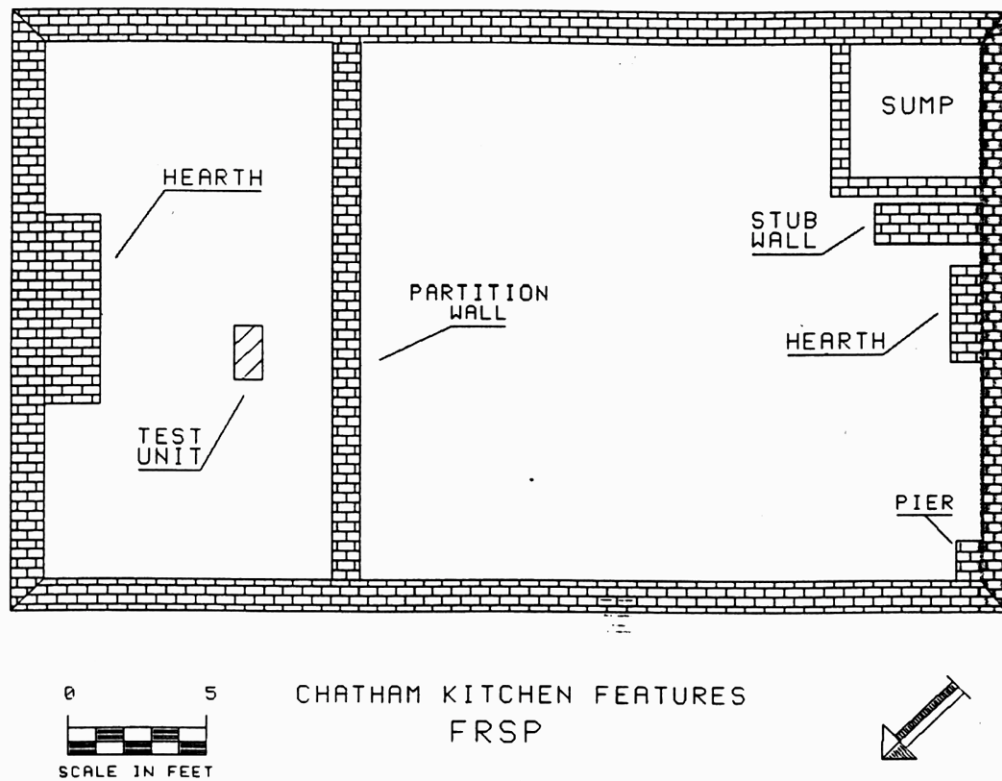


Figure 2